

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 688

By Lamberth

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of William B. "Bill" Whitson of Franklin.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of William B. "Bill" Whitson, the father of our colleague Representative Sam Whitson; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitson was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Hickman County on August 3, 1929, Mr. Whitson was the son of Samuel Montgomery Whitson and Nettie Black Whitson; he and his family moved to Nashville in 1936 and lived in the Sylvan Park neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitson was a 1948 graduate of Cohn High School; he earned his undergraduate degree from Middle Tennessee State University and his Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he began his career with what was then Davidson County Schools before turning to positions in local and State government; he served during the administrations of Mayor Beverly Briley and Mayor Richard Fulton as Nashville's director of purchasing and, in the 1980s, as director of Metro Water Services, during which time he was instrumental in the implementation of a multi-million-dollar sewer infrastructure plan that extended beyond the old city borders; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitson served as a member of Governor Ned Ray McWherter's cabinet as the Commissioner of General Services; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitson led the Nashville Farmer's Market in 2006 and served as interim executive director of the Tennessee State Fair for three years during Mayor Bill Purcell's administration; he also served as the Metro Fair Board Director in 2004 and 2010; and

WHEREAS, during his five decades of public service, Bill Whitson was a dedicated member of the Metro Transit Authority, Tennessee Bicentennial Commission, Tennessee Conservation Commission, and National Association of Purchasing Managers. He was the national president of the National Institute of Governmental Procurements and the recipient of the Albert H. Hall Memorial Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitson was an active and important part of his community who was a member of the South Nashville and Brentwood Kiwanis clubs and was instrumental in the relocation of Elks Lodge 72 to Franklin; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Bill Whitson enjoyed the loving companionship of his beloved wife, Faye Whitson, for sixty-seven years before her passing; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitson was the proud father of Joe Whitson, Representative Sam Whitson, U.S. Army Colonel (Retired), and Kevin Whitson; the beloved grandfather of Brad Whitson, Brian Whitson, Paula Vann, Captain Ryan Whitson, and Will Whitson; and the treasured great-grandfather of nine; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents and his wife, he was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters, Dr. Montgomery Whitson, Robert Whitson, Margaret Whitson Hall, and Frances Whitson Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Whitson leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of William B. "Bill" Whitson, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Whitson.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.